

# Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association

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MEMBERS OF: CBIA – NFPA – ICC

Established 1972



## TESTIMONY OF JENNIFER JENNINGS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OPPOSING

### HB-5495, AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DECONSTRUCTION PERMITTING PROCESS BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE FEBRUARY 22, 2011

2011

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The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) submits the following comments opposing HB-5495, An Act Establishing A Deconstruction Permitting Process:

Members of the heating and cooling industry oppose this legislation which would require individuals performing deconstruction to obtain additional permits and state-approved training. . . Passage of this legislation is unnecessary and sets dangerous precedent beyond what has been long-settled state law regarding occupational licensing.

State law establishes a licensing system for several occupational trades overseen by the Examining Boards for Heating, Piping, and Cooling Work; Plumbing and Piping Work; Electrical Work; etc. Each trade has different levels of expertise—apprentice, journeyman, and contractor. Workers must meet education, training, and experience requirements to qualify for each level. Members of the heating and cooling trades who hold unlimited licenses are qualified to perform any and all work related to their trade, including “deconstruction”. State licensing law has long established the ability of unlimited license holders to perform “deconstruction” work which arguably includes “repair, replacement, maintenance or alteration” (See C.G.S. Sec. 20-330).

Though HB-5495 contemplates an exemption for work being performed on historic buildings, farm buildings, and single family residences, among others, CHCC is concerned that these exemptions do not go far enough and instead will set up an unenforceable system of local permitting and create confusion among tradespersons, building officials, and citizens alike.

This bill also contemplates that in order for a permit to be issued, a requirement for a “person to demonstrate competence by examination or other means”. This language lacks specificity and may encroach upon valid work being performed by unlimited license holders, possibly setting up conflicting provisions in both statute and in practice and creating public safety concerns.

CHCC thanks the Committee for its consideration of our comments and urges rejection of HB-5495.